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U.S. Patent and Trademark Office: U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

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REQUEST  
FOR  
CONTINUED EXAMINATION (RCE)  
TRANSMITTAL

Address to:  
Mail Stop RCE  
Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

|                        |                     |
|------------------------|---------------------|
| Application Number     | 09/746,361          |
| Filing Date            | December 26, 2000   |
| First Named Inventor   | Thomas M. Armstrong |
| Art Unit               | 2877                |
| Examiner Name          | Amanda H. Merlino   |
| Attorney Docket Number | PB0092              |

This is a Request for Continued Examination (RCE) under 37 CFR 1.114 of the above-identified application.

Request for Continued Examination (RCE) practice under 37 CFR 1.114 does not apply to any utility or plant application filed prior to June 8, 1995, or to any design application. See Instruction Sheet for RCEs (not to be submitted to the USPTO) on page 2.

1. **Submission required under 37 CFR 1.114**

Note: If the RCE is proper, any previously filed unentered and amendments enclosed with the RCE will be entered in the order in which they were filed unless applicant instructs otherwise. If applicant does not wish to have any previously filed unentered amendment(s) entered, applicant must request non-entry of such amendment(s).

a.  Previously submitted. If a final Office action is outstanding, any amendments filed after the final Office action may be considered as a submission even if this box is not checked.

i.  Consider the arguments in the Appeal Brief or Reply Brief previously filed on \_\_\_\_\_  
ii.  Other \_\_\_\_\_

b.  Enclosed

i.  Amendment/Reply      iii.  Information Disclosure Statement (IDS)  
ii.  Affidavit(s)/Declaration(s)      iv.  Other \_\_\_\_\_

2. **Miscellaneous**

a.  Suspension of action on the above-identified application is requested under 37 CFR 1.103(c) for a period of \_\_\_\_\_ months. (Period of suspension shall not exceed 3 months; Fee under 37 CFR 1.17(i) required)  
b.  Other \_\_\_\_\_

3. **Fees** The RCE fee under 37 CFR 1.17(e) is required by 37 CFR 1.114 when the RCE is filed.

a.  The Director is hereby authorized to charge the following fees, or credit any overpayments, to Deposit Account No. 502-590

i.  RCE fee required under 37 CFR 1.17(e)      04/23/2004 MAHMED1 00000047 502590 09746361  
ii.  Extension of time fee (37 CFR 1.136 and 1.17)      01 FC:1801 770.00 DA  
iii.  Other \_\_\_\_\_

b.  Check in the amount of \$ \_\_\_\_\_ enclosed

c.  Payment by credit card (Form PTO-2038 enclosed)

**WARNING: Information on this form may become public. Credit card information should not be included on this form. Provide credit card information and authorization on PTO-2038.**

**SIGNATURE OF APPLICANT, ATTORNEY, OR AGENT REQUIRED**

|                     |             |                                     |        |
|---------------------|-------------|-------------------------------------|--------|
| Name (Print / Type) | Yonggang Ji | Registration No. (Attorney / Agent) | 53,073 |
|---------------------|-------------|-------------------------------------|--------|

Signature  Date April 20, 2004

**CERTIFICATE OF MAILING OR TRANSMISSION**

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Mail Stop RCE, Commissioner For Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 or facsimile transmitted to the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office on the date shown below.

|                     |              |
|---------------------|--------------|
| Name (Print / Type) | Melissa Leck |
|---------------------|--------------|

Signature  Date April 20, 2004

This collection of information is required by 37 CFR 1.114. The information is required to obtain or retain a benefit by the public which is to file (and by the USPTO to process) an application. Confidentiality is governed by 35 U.S.C. 122 and 37 CFR 1.14. This collection is estimated to take 12 minutes to complete, including gathering, preparing, and submitting the completed application form to the USPTO. Time will vary depending upon the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you require to complete this form and/or suggestions for reducing the burden, should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, U.S. Department of Commerce, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450. DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS. SEND TO: Mail Stop RCE, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.

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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Appl. No. : 09/746,361 Confirmation No.: 2193  
Applicant : Thomas M. Armstrong, et al.  
Filed : December 22, 2000  
TC/A.U. : 2877  
Examiner : Amanda H. Merlino  
  
Docket No. : PB0092  
Customer No. : 22840

Mail Stop RCE  
Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450

April 20, 2004

**AMENDMENT**

Sir:

In further response to the Office action of June 19, 2003, please amend the above-identified application as follows:

**Amendments to the Claims** are reflected in the listing of claims, which begins on page 2 of this paper.

**Remarks/Arguments** begin on page 7 of this paper.

Appellants submit concurrently herewith a Request for Continued Examination including authorization to charge Appellants' deposit account for any applicable fees.